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ABSTRACT

This advisory list includes annotations for 77 children's books, books for teachers, reference books, workbooks, and supplementary texts dealing with communication skills. The list also includes annotations for four color filmstrips; kits; study prints; and six videocassettes. Included with the list are a directory of publishers mentioned. Suggested grade levels, and the price of each item is included in the list. (RS)

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Media Evaluation Services
Department of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-1712
March 1990

Advisory List of Instructional Media

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

All titles on this bibliography are currently available for purchase. Prices shown are those quoted by publishers and producers, but do not include postage and are subject to change. These materials are on display for examination in the Media Evaluation Center in Raleigh.

PLEASE DO NOT ORDER ITEMS ON THIS LIST FROM MEDIA EVALUATION SERVICES. Publishers and producers are listed at the end of this bibliography. An abbreviated or code name for the publisher or producer appearing in the bibliographic entry on this list appears in the DIRECTORY where the complete address follows the code name.

BOOKS

Adler, David A. A TEACHER ON ROLLER SKATES AND OTHER SCHOOL RIDDLES. unp. $10.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0775-6) Grades K-6

A fun collection of typical Adler jokes and riddles for young schoolchildren, devoted in this cheery choice to school-related humor; such funny bone quizzes as "Which animal always gets in trouble while taking a test?" (A. the cheetah) and "What would a witch study in school?" (A. spelling) appear at the top of each page over a humorous black-and-white drawing captioned at the bottom with the answer; good browsing material and a "starter" text for teachers introducing the concept of riddles to groups, who can then think up equally droll or silly riddles of their own, especially around holiday time or at the conclusion of a particular unit of study

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Aisenberg, Nadya, ed. WE ANIMALS: POEMS OF OUR WORLD. 201 p. $10.95 paper. Sierra, 1989. (ISBN 0-87156-685-0) Grades 9-12

Superb collection of 20th-century poems celebrating animal life under such thematic headings as "Reverence," "Dominion," and "Communion" which clusters poems about both wildlife and domesticated animals in sections introduced by thoughtful essays acquainting readers with the forthcoming poetry and placing it in an historical and artistic context; the poetry chosen acknowledges the dignity and mystery of the so-called "lesser" life forms as well as expresses in the words of sensitive men and women what human beings have lost in a relentless destruction of the earth; poems range from joy, to awe, to fear, to reverence, to eager efforts just to verbalize the anatomy and behavior of wildlife, as in William Carlos Williams' "The Sea-Elephant" and John Hollander's "Adam's Task"; Aisenberg's essays offer the best kind of teacher's guide for the collection's study; a first-priority consideration which by its very nature will appeal to high school readers and, by its arrangement, permits eclectic study and concentration; Wendell Berry's "The Peace of Wild Things," followed by D. H. Lawrence's "The Snake"--"The voice of my education said to me / He must be killed"--will immediately convert reluctant poetry students

Ancona, George, and Mary Beth. HANDTALK ZOO. unp. $14.95. Four Winds, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-700801-0) Grades K-3

Attractive boys and girls in full-color photographs demonstrate how to sign in the language of the deaf as they participate in an outing to the zoo; photographs depict happy, normal children asking questions, making statements, and saying individual words, all in sign language against an attractive background of sea lions, zebras, monkeys, parrots, and other exotic creatures, none of whom steal the show or subvert the lesson; George Ancona's excellent photography captures not only the gesture for each word but also the motion of the hands in shaping the gesture; explanatory words and sentences appear in big, bold print spaced so as not to compete with emphasis of photographed handtalk; exuberant children unself-consciously signing make this introductory text a fine tool for classroom work and discussion in an area much too unfamiliar to most

Burkert, Nancy Ekholm. VALENTINE AND ORSON. unp. $16.95. Farrar, 1989. (ISBN 0-374-38078-3) Grades 4-8

A superb retelling of an old French romance; presented as a folk play in iambic pentameter verse and narrated by Pacolet; Bellisant, the younger sister of the King of France, becomes the wife of Alexander, Emperor of Greece; an evil archbishop tries to seduce Bellisant; after she refuses him, the archbishop tells her husband that she has been unfaithful; the Emperor, though loving her still, trusts the archbishop too much and banishes Bellisant; in a forest she gives birth to twin sons; one is taken away by bears, and her brother finds the other and keeps it to raise, not knowing that it is his own nephew; years pass, and Valentine finds Orson when he goes to capture or kill the wild man who "roamed the wild/without restraint"; the two fight but come to a silent recognition of their kinship; together Valentine and Orson search for their true identities and eventually find their mother; their parents are reunited, and both sons find their own true loves; full-page color illustrations with clean white borders are reminiscent of those found in old-fashioned storybooks, so richly detailed and encompassing that some are almost like murals; these

exquisite illustrations are alive with color and good humor and are a feast for visually oriented children as well as for those whose eyes need awakening; beautifully printed and with illuminations at the beginning of each chapter, this book is a literary and artistic delight, a joyous reminder of what the blending of words, pictures, ideas, feelings, and love of beauty can create

Carson, Jo. STORIES I AIN'T TOLD NOBODY YET: SELECTIONS FROM THE PEOPLE PIECES. 84 p. $12.99. Orchard Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-531-08408-6) Grades 7-12

Forty-nine poems based on snatches of conversations overheard by the author in east Tennessee and the Appalachian region; they are written in the voice and vocabulary of real people and do a good job of capturing the poetry of speech patterns; the poems, each one a story, are arranged in categories: "neighbors and kin," "observations," "relationships," "work," and "we say of ourselves"; among the many human experiences dealt with are sickness, learning to say "no," aging, forgetfulness, prejudice (against both mountain folks and blacks), unwanted change, lengthy courtships, wife abuse (this poem, written by the battered wife, includes a couple of derogatory words about females used by the husband), pollution and chemical poisoning, losing a job, and death; all of these stories are real and interesting; although the speech may be Appalachian, the human concerns are universal; a fine read for anyone loving both poetry and narrative and a useful resource for demonstrating how stories can become poetry

Ciardi, John. THE HOPEFUL TROUT AND OTHER LIMERICKS. 52 p. $13.95. Houghton, 1989. (ISBN 0-395-43606-0) Grades 3-8

Collection of zany limericks from the zesty, irreverent pen of John Ciardi, some of which are clever and funny, some just wild and woolly nonsense in rhyme; most feature a character, either a person or an animal, caught in a self-made dilemma, or plunged into one by outside forces, or just the victim of his or her own silly nature; there is the hopeful trout, the nervous young worm, Sue with nothing to do, a skinflint named Quince, and "Home Sweet Home" about a flea ("A flea on a pooch doesn't care / Which part it is crossing to where. / Like mud to a frog, / Any part of a dog / Suits a flea, and it's glad to be there"); equally fanciful and entertaining drawings in pen and ink accompany each limerick; a fine introduction to word play and puns, to rhyme and cliches (good jumping-off points for limericks), and to the whole notion of versified sardonic humor

Conrad, Joseph. HEART OF DARKNESS and THE SECRET SHARER. (Bantam Classics) 205 p. $2.50 paper. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-21214-1) Grades 10-12

Conrad's two great works on the nature of evil, introduced by Franklin Walker in an essay which raises tantalizing questions about Conrad's expressed and unconscious purposes in both works, questions bound to encourage class discussion and debate; the mysterious Kurtz, in all his diabolical and promising paradox, and Leggatt, in his moral quandary, offer models of human behavior affected, even disfigured in the case of Kurtz, by forces of good and evil through short fiction which able high school readers will indeed feel challenged by; a short biography of Conrad and a suggested list of further reading round out an economical paperback edition with exceptionally dark, large print and good margins

Coville, Bruce, comp. & ed. HERDS OF THUNDER, MANES OF GOLD: A COLLECTION OF HORSE STORIES AND POEMS. 176 p. $15.95. Doubleday, 1989. (ISBN 0-385-24642-0) Grades 5-9

Stories, book excerpts, and poems about horses--or more accurately, about the bonds between horses and people; Nathaniel Hawthorne, Carl Sandburg, and William Shakespeare appear among the authors, and the tales range from the familiar ("My Friend Flicka") to the new ("Prairie Lightning"); titles also range over a large time span and several different cultures; occasional color illustrations by Ted Lewin add vividness to the selections; horse lovers and reluctant readers should be at home here

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. UNDER THE SUN AND OVER THE MOON. unp. $15.95. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21946-3) Grades K-3

A counting trip through "ten secret gardens"; rhymed couplets accompany the full-page color illustration for each garden, where readers search for like objects; the counting moves from one of each object in the first garden to ten of each in the last; Ian Penney's illustrations are stylized and highly detailed, both fascinating and challenging; this counting puzzle requires not only the ability to count but also the power to observe; a fine choice for sharing between adults and children or for an individual treasure hunt

Degler, Teri. SCUTTLEBUTT . . . AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF NAUTICAL ORIGIN. 113 p. $6.95 paper. H. Holt & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8050-0989-0) Grades 6-12

Alphabetical list of terms derived over centuries from ship talk and sailor lingo with interesting explanations of their mutations and migrations into everyday speech; phrases like "at loggerheads" and "in the doldrums," along with saltier ones like "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey" (cannon balls, that is, and the monkey was a frame that held them in place), will intrigue word-minded students; colorful cover; amusing pen-and-ink drawings proliferate; good print and wide margins; interesting introduction and a strong bibliography; for "the library that has everything"--or one needing a delightful display item (it will certainly be examined)

Degler, Teri. STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH . . . AND OTHER ANIMAL EXPRESSIONS. 109 p. $6.95 paper. H. Holt & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8050-0988-4) Grades 3-12

Engaging little book of expressions derived from animal lore, superstition, literature, or Scripture, which looks at origins of such everyday descriptions as "a horse of a different color," "crocodile tears," "lion's share," and "sewing bee," as well as less known phrases like "Adam's off ox" and "yellow dog contract"; spirited, high-hearted text will hook readers of all ages with its jaunty prose and sly humor echoing fable wit and wisdom; variations of expressions and their equivalents in cultures other than American or British make this source a means of demonstrating the common bonds of humanity despite diversities of place, time, or language; excellent print, wide margins, and comical pen-and-ink drawings; contains an excellent bibliography; a fine resource for mythology study, vocabulary study, and a springboard for teaching the concepts of "context" and "allusion" in reading comprehension

de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk, et al., sel. SING A SONG OF POPCORN: EVERY CHILD'S BOOK OF POEMS. 142 p. $16.95. Scholastic Inc., 1988. (ISBN 0-590-40645-0) Grades K-6; teacher use

Irresistible collection of 158 poems thematically arranged in nine sections: "Fun with Rhymes," "Mostly Weather," "Spooky Poems," "Story Poems," "Mostly Animals," "Mostly People," "Mostly Nonsense," "Seeing, Feeling, Thinking," and "In a Few Words"; selections range from the traditional to the modern and include poets such as Eve Merriam, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson, Langston Hughes, A. A. Milne, Myra Cohn Livingston, Robert Frost, Walter de la Mare, Karla Kuskin, Ogden Nash, Edward Lear, John Ciardi, Carl Sandburg, Nikki Giovanni, and Shel Silverstein; each section is illustrated by a Caldecott Medal winner (e.g., Trina Schart Hyman, Maurice Sendak, Arnold Lobel, and Marcia Brown); these exceptional color illustrations vary, of course, in style, but all are captivating and vital; includes an introduction, an unusually clear table of contents, an index of titles, an index of first lines, an index of authors, and a brief commentary about each artist; a highly recommended book that will fascinate with its illustrations and enchant with its poetry--a must for reading aloud

Du Bois, W. E. B. THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK. (Bantam Classics) 192 p. $3.95 paper. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-21336-9) Grades 9-12

The famous 1903 book has lost none of its vigor, beauty, or intensity; in a series of essays Du Bois makes an eloquent plea for the erasure of what he calls the "color line" in the United States; he describes the basic problems of being black in America and provides historical information (including the work of the Freedmen's Bureau) explaining how the lives of the freed slaves became bondage of another sort; he also discusses some individual black lives, some well known, including Booker T. Washington (who Du Bois felt was too compliant with the white world), and some unknown (with some devastating stories of injustice and brutality); he talks about education, Jim Crow laws, religion, and, most poignantly, the death of his own son; the introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. describes Du Bois' life, education, and career as well as the suffering he endured simply because he was black; also discusses critical reaction to The Souls of Black Folk, its style, its influence, and its literary qualities; a must for libraries that do not presently have this book and a good supplementary edition for research and discussion; a beautifully written book that is a haunting and painful reminder of how far we have yet to go in obliterating the color line and acknowledging the common humanity of all people

Duncan, Lois. SONGS FROM DREAMLAND. unp. $12.99. Knopf, 1989. (ISBN 0-394-99904-5) Grade K

Lovely collection of original lullabies fully illustrated by Kay Chorao's soft, pastel pencils in a book which will serve both to delight small children with its lyrics and enchant them with its pictures; appealing babies and preschool boys and girls of multiracial description prepare for bed or sleep contentedly and, in some delicately imaginative drawings, dream richly, accompanied to faraway places by charming sea creatures or soft, night sky companions; lullabies themselves reflect all sorts of bedtime situations--baths, hugs and kisses, bedtime storytelling, heart-to-heart talks, grumpy and cross little ones, tired mothers--which are beautifully extended in full-page pastels accompanying every song; daddies and brothers also appear, lovingly tucking in small children; each lullaby is rhythmical and repetitious, repeating words or phrases in the manner that delights young children learning songs

Franklin, Benjamin. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND OTHER WRITINGS. (Bantam Classics) 282 p. $3.50 paper. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-21075-0) Grades 11-12

The famous autobiography, plus selected pieces from Franklin's revolutionary writings, from Poor Richard's Almanac, from letters and essays, and some of his droll rhymes, all introduced most helpfully by Peter Shaw's essay on Franklin and his achievements and motives in the unfinished autobiography; includes two outlines prepared by Franklin which suggest the content of his intended conclusion; Shaw's preface offers great assistance to English teachers and students on the context of the Autobiography as an historical document and as an artistic work, arguing fairly the major critical assessments of Franklin's defenders and his adversaries; Silence Dogood, Franklin's speech in the Constitutional convention, his letter to President Ezra Stiles of Yale University in which he explains his religious beliefs, and his famous epitaph are some of the varied entries in this anthology's attempt to depict the whole man; footnotes, bibliography, index, and bracketed explanations and clarifications throughout enhance the research value of this economical paperback edition; an excellent title for American literature classes and American history study

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. THE YELLOW WALLPAPER AND OTHER WRITINGS. (Bantam Classics) 240 p. $4.50 paper. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-21375-X) Grades 9-12

A representative selection of fiction and nonfiction from a writer influential in her own time (1860-1935) and "rediscovered" later in this century; features her most famous piece, "The Yellow Wallpaper," a superbly creative, hauntingly written, and psychologically correct story of a woman who gradually slips from depression to insanity because her husband (in an effort to cure her) takes away her work (her creative outlet) and the society and stimulation of other people; also includes seven other short stories which, although not as masterful as "The Yellow Wallpaper," are startling and compelling in the originality of their solutions to the problem of equality between the sexes and her belief that such equality would benefit everyone; also contains selections from Herland (Gilman's Utopian novel about an all-female society that honors motherhood), her widely read Women and Economics (a volume that looks not only at that issue but also rather idealistically ahead to a time when marriage and families are grounded in true, enduring love rather than economic and social circumstance), and The Man-Made World: Our Androcentric Culture, which defines some of the consequences of a male-created and male-dominated society and suggests the rewards to be reaped from feminizing that society; a lengthy introduction by Lynne Sharon Schwartz describes Gilman's philosophy and ideas, the influences on her, her family, her marriage and subsequent breakdown, and her major works; Gilman's work has force and relevance today; this volume offers a good introduction to that work and substantial material that could be used in research; appropriate for any study or discussion of women writers and for comparative forays into feminist literature; philosophically challenging for those interested in the complexities of marriage, family, and society

Glenn, Mel. BACK TO CLASS: POEMS BY MEL GLENN. 95 p. $13.95. Clarion Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-89919-656-X) Grades 9-12

A collection of 65 gritty, candid free verse poems in which imaginary high school teachers and students speak about their lives, their triumphs and defeats, in a kind of Spoon River Anthology style, although these testaments come very much from the lips of contemporary, living characters; the

disgruntled music teacher, the detached math teacher, the lazy English teacher (the author is an English teacher), and the delightful accounting teacher, among other regulars of the high school scene, confess their dreams or disappointments; counterpointing them are the equally bored or anxious, frivolous or serious "thought poems" expressed by students in their classes; an uncompromising collection which makes no concessions to "pretty" poetry or idealized school life; excellent book for stimulating creative writing in a like manner or for reading aloud by students and teachers in a warm-up for journal writing--a strongly oral quality characterizes the poems; black-and-white photographs of adults and teen-agers match the spirit of the poems' speakers

Goldstein, Bobbye S., sel. BEAR IN MIND: A BOOK OF BEAR POEMS. 32 p. $11.95. Viking, 1989. (ISBN 0-670-81907-7) Grades K-3

Poems for reading aloud that will provide enjoyment and invite reactions and comments; the seven groupings present bears in springtime, funny poems about bears, bear facts, bears at the circus and zoo, polar bears, hibernating bears, and teddy bears; frisky, appealing color illustrations by William Pene du Bois add warmth and detail; poets include Ogden Nash, Jack Prelutsky, Lillian M. Fisher, Lee Bennett Hopkins, and Karla Kuskin; a good resource for sharing both fun and poetry

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. THE SCARLET LETTER. 249 p. $7.50 paper. Vintage Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-679-72526-1) (Available from Random Sch. Div.) Grades 11-12

Harold Bloom, eminent American literary critic and scholar, introduces Hawthorne's famous tale of Hester Prynne in an unusual and compelling analysis entirely unlike the stock discussions of Hester which proliferate in secondary school texts and related study guides; Bloom's penetrating assessment of Hester, and of Hawthorne's artistic and subconscious intentions in creating her, will fascinate academically superior high school readers whose intellectual curiosity will permit them access to Bloom's concepts even if his formidable vocabulary will send them to dictionaries; also contains Hawthorne's preface to the second edition, a detailed chronology of Hawthorne's life, and notes of more obscure terms and allusions prepared by Millicent Bell, an excellent Hawthorne scholar; Bloom's introduction provides a challenging research source for advanced students of American literature, casting Hester as it does in the light of an intriguing and prophetic liberation beneath her comely submissiveness ("Hester does not run away with her story, but she runs off with it.")

Heller, Ruth. MANY LUSCIOUS LOLLIPOPS: A BOOK ABOUT ADJECTIVES. unp. $13.95. G&D, 1989. (ISBN 0-448-03151-5) Grades 1-4

A rhyming text introducing the term adjective through vivid illustrations and catchy, memorable adjectives describing each illustration; two-page, brilliantly colored, and rather stylized subjects--e.g., a jigsaw puzzle, a cluster of roses and violets, a detail of an ornamented Christmas tree, as well as the gorgeously colored pinwheel lollipops of the title--invite close viewing as they sugar the fundamentals of demonstrative, comparative, proper, possessive, and irregular English adjectives; large, bold-faced adjectives stand out in pleasingly positioned, rhyming explanations that flow easily from page to page, category to category; well-wedded text and pictures in which rhyme subtly enhances the value of language and its components, the parts of speech--all of it harmonized in unforgettable graphics that exert users to think up specific, vivid adjectives; one-page summary of main points concludes a vital and "luscious" lesson

Hodges, Margaret, retel. THE ARROW AND THE LAMP: THE STORY OF PSYCHE. unp. $14.45. Little, 1989. (ISBN 0-316-36790-7) Grades 4-8

A gracefully written retelling of the Greek myth of Psyche and Eros with beautiful, sensitive color illustrations by Donna Diamond on every page; Psyche, a mortal, is so beautiful that men adore her more than the goddess Aphrodite; a jealous Aphrodite sends her son, Eros, to punish Psyche, but Eros falls in love with her himself; Psyche is taken to a lovely palace where she is treated like a queen and Eros becomes her husband; Eros tells Psyche never to look at him in the light, but under her sisters' influence Psyche disobeys and loses Eros and the palace; she searches everywhere for her husband; finally Aphrodite gives Psyche a series of seemingly impossible tasks to regain Eros; Psyche ends up in Hades, where Eros finds and rescues her; includes a list of characters with pronunciation guides and descriptions; a fine selection that should be a welcome addition to mythology collections

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, sel. STILL AS A STAR: A BOOK OF NIGHTTIME POEMS. 31 p. Little, 1989. (ISBN 0-316-37272-2) Grades K-3

A collection of fourteen poems about sleep, night, and dreams; poets include Norma Farber, Nikki Giovanni, Aileen Fisher, Nancy Willard, Carl Sandburg, and Beatrice Schenk de Regniers; Karen Milone's double-page watercolor illustrations in pastel shades capture the gentle, reassuring tone of the poems and provide a visual feast for young eyes; an excellent choice for reading aloud and sharing or for individual browsing

Hutton, Warwick, retel. THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR. unp. $13.95. McElderry Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-689-50473-X) Grades 2-5

A retelling of the Greek myth with expressive, richly detailed watercolor illustrations on almost every page; Theseus, the son of Athen's king, goes to Crete to kill the Minotaur so that no more young people must be sacrificed in tribute to Minos, the King of Crete; with the help of Ariadne, the daughter of Minos whom Theseus promises to marry, he does so; Ariadne leaves with Theseus and the other thirteen young people to return to Athens; when they stop for a rest, Ariadne falls asleep and is left behind; in her sadness she agrees to marry Dionysus; Theseus and the others return safely to Athens, but he has forgotten to change the black sail to a white one so that his father, Aegeus, will know they are all safe; the grief-stricken Aegeus stumbles from a cliff and dies; that tragedy makes Theseus king; the narrative is clear and graceful, lending a poetic cast to this dark story; a fine addition to library shelves

James, Henry. THE TURN OF THE SCREW AND OTHER SHORT FICTION. (Bantam Classics) 403 p. $1.95 paper. Bantam, 1988. (ISBN 0-553-21059-9) Grades 11-12

The most famous ghost story in American literature, along with Washington Square, Daisy Miller, "The Beast in the Jungle," and "The Jolly Corner," introduced by scholar and critic, R. W. B. Lewis, in an outstanding preface which offers insights into the works and the author while casting both in the light of the times; a very fine anthology for introducing high school students to the works of Henry James, whose writing requires some background in the man and the period to be appreciated fully, a need ably met by Lewis' perceptive analysis of each title; excellent selection for college-bound students whose inevitable encounter with the delightful Daisy Miller will be much less perplexed if anticipated by some secondary preparation; a valuable addition to school collections for electives on great writers or to any advanced English class shelves

Janeczko, Paul B. BRICKYARD SUMMER. 53 p. $13.99. Orchard Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-531-08446-9) Grades 7-12

Thirty free verse poems about a boy's summer after the eighth grade; in his poems Janeczko recreates a small mill town, its people, its events, its places, and the learning it affords two adolescent boys who attend a Catholic school; from the joy of leaving school for the year to a first kiss, the poems excel in expressing character and adolescent feelings; there is a description of a best friend and of Glass-Eye Harry Coote, who could see the strengths lying in each person's soul; there is the eager anticipation for all the high school temptations warned against by Sister Mary Ellen; there is grace in unexpected places--a father's baseball play, a cook cracking eggs; romance and sensuality carry away the librarian, and serious subjects have their place: the boys causing the death of a cat, watching the dead body of a boy taken away in an ambulance, grief over the death of a baby brother, hearts broken by love and by grief; there are hoodlums, a childish brush with thievery, sisters too bonded to each other to make attachments with others, and temporary escape from the dull pains of working class life; excellent black-and-white paintings by Ken Rush reinforce the mood of these poems that light the darkness of reality with the glow of youthful anticipation, eagerness, self-confidence, daring, and tenderness; readers will relate to the situations in this fine gathering of poems and will respond to the vivid, well-chosen language; especially good for those who believe--or fear--that good poetry is always esoteric

Juster, Norton. AS: A SURFEIT OF SIMILES. unp. $9.88. Morrow, 1989. (ISBN 0-688-08140-1) Grades 3-6

Page after page of similes using "as" in lyrical, comic, cliched, and original comparisons, all fully illustrated in copious detail with black-and-white drawings often containing additional similes tucked in here and there; to break the monotony of repeated similes, a brief sentence or two of text relieves the comparisons at intervals; a book that begs to be read aloud, rhyming as it does in four-lined "stanzas" of similes beginning with "as" (e.g., "As flat as a pancake / As warm as your socks / As dead as a doornail / As constant as clocks"); teachers will want to remind students that "like" also introduces similes and perhaps suggest ways to convert some of these similes to comparisons using "like" or to invent their own comparisons with both "as" and "like"

Katz, Bobbi. POEMS FOR SMALL FRIENDS. unp. $6.99. Random Sch. Div., 1989. (ISBN 0-394-91945-9) Grades K-1

Twelve short poems accompanied by Gyo Fujikawa's happy, colorful illustrations are just what the title proclaims--poems for small friends, ranging over such childhood joys as kittens, kites, snowball fights, tree houses, and dressing up in adult clothes and costumes; opens pleasantly with "Morning Song" and closes with "Good-Night Song," featuring the same tousle-headed little redhead in each poem, first reaching down to pet his puppy, peeping out from under the bed, and then, yawning widely, turning over to sleep; two nice departures from the predictable are "The Dare," in which a child's voice gaily challenges others to jump after he/she has cleared the (unnamed) obstacle--a little girl urges two small boys to leap a tiny stream in the drawing--and "Leaving Home," a thoroughly un-saccharine view of the newest sibling through the eyes of the grumpy, displaced big sister or brother; two boys and two girls provide the multiracial cast--a sensitive touch is the eyeglasses worn by the small redhead, which are seen lying on his bedside table as he awakens on the first page and falls asleep on the last

Kennedy, X. J. GHASTLIES, GOOPS AND PINCUSHIONS. 56 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-689-50477-2) Grades 3-6

Sixty-two poems of the silly variety that will certainly amuse and occasionally bemuse; subject matter is various and vivid: a boy swallowed by a vacuum cleaner, a robot that needs cleaning, Whistler's father, Uncle Demented who invented, Wicked Witch, pasta, parsnips, fairies, measles, and blisters are some of the topics included; black-and-white drawings by Ron Barrett illustrate the text but add little interest; students looking for a good giggle (or those fascinated by words) will be drawn to this little book

Kipling, Rudyard. THE BEST FICTION OF RUDYARD KIPLING. 627 p. $12.95 paper. Anchor Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-385-26091-1) Grades 4-9

Collection of Kipling's stories from Just So, The Jungle Book, and Puck of Pook's Hill, and the entirety of Kim, all introduced by John Beecroft in a helpful overview of Kipling's life; also includes other stories, such as "The Man Who Would Be King," "Without Benefit of Clergy," and "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi"; a fine anthology of classic Kipling fiction; paperback binding may limit circulation; a fine read-aloud selection if teachers acquaint students with unfamiliar names and terms--and a wonderful introduction to geography skills if used in conjunction with a map and globe lesson

Kipling, Rudyard. COMPLETE VERSE. Definitive edition. 850 p. $12.95 paper. Anchor Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-385-26089-X) Grades 6-12

Although out of the mainstream of poetry anthologies, Kipling's verse, lilting and honest, still sings to children's ears as well as speaks to older readers and listeners with astonishing foresight of the collapse of British imperialism; a definitive edition of Kipling's poetry, approximately 600+ titles, ranging from those about India, to war poems, to children's poetry, to poems born of his American experience, to those delving into ancient British history, and more; index of first lines follows text; weak binding prevents long life; used selectively, these poems supply a provocative, tuneful, and grimly straightforward record of a certain place and time and, especially, a special insight--quite ambivalent and compassionate--worth preserving

Lear, Edward. THE JUMBLIES. unp. $14.95. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21632-4) Grades 1-3

Ted Rand's splendid illustrations in a lively new depiction of Edward Lear's beloved nonsense verse about the fearless Jumblies who sail away to sea in a sieve, here depicted as a small mesh strainer with a serviceable handle; three capitivating little people whose "heads are green and hands are blue" caper about on their wave-tossed sieve, oblivious to ocean perils and thoroughly exhilarated by their wondrous voyage; over-sized, full-color pages evoke an exotic Eastern flavor as the Jumblies with their green, Oriental faces and their King of Siam, curly-topped slippers buy an owl and carry him away in a tiny rickshaw, select a pound of rice and some green jackdaws, and "a lovely monkey with lollipop paws"--any creature would be happy to go off with these vivacious little interpretations of the Jumblies, so unfrightening and exuberant are they under the brush of Rand; excellent addition to children's poetry collections

Little, Jean. HEY WORLD, HERE I AM! 88 p. $10.89. Har-Row, 1989. (ISBN 0-06-024006-7) Grades 5-9

Poems, sketches, and musings from the adolescent Kate; in her funny, revealing, and touching way, Kate looks at such diverse matters as family love, eating parsnips, discomfort at listening to her mother's sadness, friendship, notebooks, surprises, loneliness, empathy, feeling Jewish, writing, old people, freedom, and growing up; the characterizations that emerge are truthful and expressive and the situations ones that most readers will recognize; black-and-white drawings by Sue Truesdell perfectly illustrate the emotions and activities of the text; a treat that should not be missed

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. DILLY DILLY PICCALILLI: POEMS FOR THE VERY YOUNG. 68 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-689-50466-7) Grades K-3

Delightful little poetry collection full of nonsense poems and exploratory verse, poems that tickle the senses and probe nature's mysteries, all from a child's viewpoint; poets represented include A. A. Milne, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Louis Stevenson, Theodore Roethke, Christina Rossetti, Clyde Watson, and Arnold Lobel, among many other excellent, established and contemporary writers; topics vary from tree houses to sand buckets, from the wind and the moon, to sound and rhythm for their own sake, as in the title poem; children can chant these poems or dance to them or hear them read aloud; soft, dreamily smudged pencil illustrations capture the playful, whimsical text of this small, pocket-sized book; a fine anthology and a first-priority consideration

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. POEMS FOR FATHERS. 32 p. $13.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0729-2) Grades K-6

Collection of 18 poems, some happy, some sad, but all celebrating fathers, by a variety of poets, including Lewis Carroll, John Ciardi, Alfred Noyes, Lucille Clifton, and Emanuel di Pasquale; several sensitive poems by contemporary writers express the sadness of children of divorce in simple, poignant language; a predictably eccentric tribute by Lewis Carroll poses a series of humorously impudent questions asked by a son and patiently answered by his father, and a shy but loving little poem by Martha Robinson acknowledges the bond between child and stepfather; Robert Casilla's somber, magenta-on-blue illustrations are heavy-handed and detract from the grace and spirit of the poetry selection; excellent title for recognizing fatherhood and fathers' expanded roles in the modern family, as well as a fine stimulus for children's own written tributes

Livingston, Myra Cohn. REMEMBERING AND OTHER POEMS. 54 p. $11.95. McElderry Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-689-50489-6) Grades 4-6

An array of poems that touch and delight; subjects of the forty-five poems are often unexpected and their treatment always intriguing, expressing ideas and emotions in unusual ways; stars, turtles, snails, games, secrets, seasons, piano recitals, pigeons, poison ivy, and possibilities all have their place here along with ladybugs, night-lights, and fireworks; Livingston's style is concise and rich, excellent for reading aloud; a solid selection for poetry collections

Mahy, Margaret. NONSTOP NONSENSE. 120 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-689-50483-7) Grades 3-7

Stories and poems by an award-winning New Zealand author of children's works, with pen-and-ink illustrations exactly matching the text's high-spirited contents by Britain's well-known Quentin Blake; a wonderful verbal sally through all sorts of imaginary experiences with such quaint and delightful characters as the Delmonico family, Mr. Salt and his family, the man from Fandango, and the cat who swallows a poetry-writing mouse and finds himself speaking verse whenever he goes to hiss or snarl--his unexpected talent saves him from attack by Max the dog when he startles himself by flattering Max as "Colonel Dog" and complimenting Max's "white soldiers on parade" (teeth); a delightful read-aloud and a spirited opener for any sort of imaginative writing exercise or adventure into vocabulary study; despite its nonsense, the collection contains much more sense than foolishness beneath its dazzling word play--a double bonus for those acute to lessons within lessons

Marzollo, Jean. THE TEDDY BEAR BOOK. unp. $11.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1989. (ISBN 0-8037-0632-4) Grades K-2

Twenty-one rhymes, chants, jump rope sayings, and other universally shared childhood verses, all presented in ever-popular teddy bear terms and lovingly illustrated by Ann Schweninger in soft-colored pictures of toy teddy bears participating in the rhyme descriptions; such oldies as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" substitute a teddy bear for the star, depicting a teddy-shaped star shining brightly against the night sky; this book's appeal is its novelty, its incorporation of a beloved childhood toy into hallowed childhood verses, and its clever insertion of bears in lines and phrases, showing young children how they too can adapt, revise, and originate, in addition to simply enjoying the timeless sounds and rhythms of these legacies

Merriam, Eve. A POEM FOR A PICKLE: FUNNYBONE VERSES. unp. $12.88. Morrow, 1989. (ISBN 0-688-08138-X) Grades K-3

A delightful collection of twenty-eight short poems loaded with humor and high spirits; Rover, the dog who answers questions (his vocabulary: "roof, roof" and "rough, rough"), "Roly-poly Hobart" and "hoity-toity Hortense," Baby June with a private tune, and Uncle Dick who can make his heels click are just a few of the characters that people these pages; other poetic subjects include spring, counting, crickets, junk, city colors, ice cream, and rainy days; brightly colored illustrations by Sheila Hamanaka add a lively appeal to each poem; children pictured come from several ethnic backgrounds; fun-to-listen-to and fun-to-read poems coupled with cheerful, detailed illustrations make this a winning entry for the poetry collection

Moncure, Jane Belk. WORD BIRD'S SCHOOL WORDS. 32 p. $8.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-06559-9) Grades K-1

Busy, brightly colored illustrations provide the background for Word Bird's introduction of school-related words, such as "teacher," "school bus," "library," and those great words, "recess," "playground," "field trip," among others; one word or phrase per page in large, clear captions against interpretive pictures filled with school-going animals and appropriate details, often subtly humorous (for example, in the library a little pig sits reading The Three Little Pigs and a turtleneck-sweatered frog pores over The Frog Prince); young children will be able to read the words and see the relationships, enjoying the visual treasures as they learn

Moss, Jeff. THE BUTTERFLY JAR. 115 p. $14.95. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-05704-9) Grades K-4

A collection of witty, thoughtful poems that express many of the myriad thoughts, feelings, and ponderings of a child's mind; monsters, colors, nerds, the limits of sharing, anger at parents, crumbs in bed, weddings, washing machines that eat socks, people with disgusting manners, new clothes, carrots, the death of a child's mother, moving, and pulling loose teeth are just some of the mused-upon marvels; black-and-white illustrations by Chris Demarest support the humor and the childlike perspective of the poems; teachers will enjoy reading these aloud, and older readers will recognize themselves over and over again in this genial glimpse into childhood

Osborne, Mary Pope, retel. FAVORITE GREEK MYTHS. 81 p. $14.95. Scholastic Inc., 1989. (ISBN 0-590-41338-4) Grades 3-6

Collection of 12 Greek myths, including stories of Cupid and Psyche, King Midas, the abduction of Persephone, Narcissus, Arachne, and Atalanta of Calydon, all depicted by Troy Howell in one, full-page, classically inspired illustration per myth; Osborne's fresh, direct style and perfect pacing capture the simplicity and emotion of these compelling tales; enough detail is provided to flesh out the ancient forms and rituals for a young audience without burdening the narrative line, which Osborne always keeps in focus; one problem, however, is the book's rather misleading title--these myths use the Roman, not the Greek, names for gods and goddesses (Jupiter for Zeus, Neptune for Poseidon, etc.), a fact which teachers and librarians would be wise to clarify; appended to the text are a cast of major deities (listed by both Greek and Roman names), a glossary of modern words derived from myths, a brief note on early recorders of myths, a bibliography, and an index; excellent print, wide margins, in a handsome publication; excellent read-aloud or resource title for young readers

Packard, William, ed. SIX MAJOR TRAGEDIES. (Bantam Classics) 462 p. $4.95 paper. Bantam, 1989. (ISBN 0-553-21364-4) Grades 10-12

Edition of six classic tragedies--the Agamemnon, Oedipus the King, Doctor Faustus, King Lear, Hedda Gabler, and The Emperor Jones--with an invaluable introductory essay by William Packard which defines, compactly and clearly, the classical components of tragic drama and illustrates them in succinct explanations of their application in each of the six plays; English teachers will appreciate Packard's intelligent essay and find its content transferable to any discussion of ancient or modern tragedy, so clearly does he define, elaborate upon, and trace the development of tragic principles from Aristotle's Poetics to modern playwrights' adaptations of them to satisfy the expectations of a radically changed audience's cultures and religions; for example, Packard suggests that the offstage beating of the tom-tom and the cynical, confident character of Smithers in The Emperor Jones are contemporary versions of the ancient Greek chorus and their function in the Agamemnon or Oedipus, which he has earlier demonstrated; Aeschylus is translated by Richard Lattimore, Sophocles by David Grene; the print is fine and close, the binding typical Bantam paperback; a superior purchase for academically gifted students or for drama classes studying the progress of theater from the ancients, through the modifications of the medieval church, to the impact of 20th-century politics and skepticism; as good an anthology/glossary/historical perspective as can be found at the price--and far superior to most that are well bound

Peck, Richard, ed. SOUNDS AND SILENCES: POETRY FOR NOW. Rev. ed. 174 p. $3.95 paper. Dell, 1990. (ISBN 0-440-98171-9) Grades 9-12

A riveting collections of poems, divided into categories that encompass a wide range of human experience: family, childhood, isolation, identity, realities, illusion, dissent, communication, love, war, pain, and recollections; some of the fine poets whose work appears are Langston Hughes, William Carlos Williams, Gwendolyn Brooks, Dylan Thomas, Randall Jarrell, e. e. cummings, Eve Merriam, T. S. Eliot, LeRoi Jones, Carl Sandburg, Stephen Spender, and William Butler Yeats; song lyrics also appear, including ones penned by Woody Guthrie and the Beatles; these well-chosen poems travel the path of growing up, beginning with early family experiences and moving through the ideas, issues, needs, and fears that accompany the trek to adulthood; these poems will satisfy serious readers and thinkers but will also be comfortable for students who are uncertain of their ability to read and understand poetry; contains an index of first lines and an index of authors and titles; an excellent collection with broad appeal

Prelutsky, Jack. TYRANNOSAURUS WAS A BEAST: DINOSAUR POEMS. 32 p. $11.88. Greenwillow, 1988. (ISBN 0-688-06443-4) Grades K-6

Rhyming verses describe fourteen dinosaurs, relating such things as physical characteristics and eating habits (though supposedly factual, some information may be questionable); one page of text is devoted to each dinosaur and is accompanied by Arnold Lobel's full-page color drawing of the dinosaur; with each picture is the dinosaur's phonetically spelled name and the common descriptive term for the beast (e.g., Tyrannosaurus: "Tyrant Lizard"); a page at the beginning of the book (serving as the table of contents) contains a small picture of each dinosaur along with the era in which it lived, its habitat, and its length and height; a time line at the back of the book charts the eras and cites the number of years between each one and the present; holds appeal for elementary grade students; useful for stimulating interest in poetry writing by young children who might compose verse about their pets or other animals

Rees, Nigel. WHY DO WE QUOTE . . . ? 232 p. $17.95. Blandford Pr., 1989. (ISBN 0-7137-2161-4) (Available from Sterling) Grades 9-12

Rich source of common expressions uncommonly anthologized, collected and annotated by a British authority on words and popular quotations; arranged under chapters headed by each letter of the alphabet (except x and z); contents combine both British and American slogans, catch phrases, cliches, idioms, and quotations, as well as some foreign favorites that have found their way into English; Rees examines popular variations of a deathless statement, then shows the original, tracing each quotation to its earliest known use and acknowledging ambiguities and scholarly disagreements often attached; little-known, "inside" jokes surrounding famous remarks make this anthology unique from earnest, plodding source books often designated for student use; for example, President Kennedy's lofty "Ich bin ein Berliner" translates in conversational German to "I am a doughnut"--"ein Berliner" being a doughnut ("Ich bin Berliner," without the article "ein," expresses universal human identity); President Carter, pondering a catchy phrase before his trip to West Germany, was advised by an aide to go to Frankfurt!; contains preface and key to abbreviations used to identify books consulted; a worthy addition to both English and social studies collections, with content both literary and worldly, political and historical

Sadeh, Pinhas, sel. & retel. JEWISH FOLKTALES. Translated from the Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. 441 p. $12.95 paper. Anchor Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-385-19574-5) Grades 6-12

Over 250 folktales from the Jewish tradition and heritage, selected and retold by Pinhas Sadeh, the Jewish poet and novelist, and vividly translated by American-born Hillel Halkin; stories range from half-page, extended proverbs or brief little cautionary tales to longer, more developed narratives; each selection incorporates some timeless element of folklore, such as a moral lesson, magic, humor, or beast fable; this collection encompasses Jewish lore from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, as well as the literature of Biblical persuasion in which the wicked are punished and the good rewarded by a stern God, all of which mingle gracefully and powerfully in Sadeh's skilled hands and voice; a universal, Everyman quality elevates these tales above ethnic boundaries, offering wisdom and wit for people of all backgrounds; an afterword by Sadeh is a teacher's guide in itself, providing insights on the origins of folklore and Sadeh's own brilliant insights into specific stories; an appended note on sources is a very thorough discussion, title by title, of the stories' origins; an unusually fine collection for school libraries in an area which probably lacks the scope and comprehensiveness contained in this title

Singer, Marilyn. TURTLE IN JULY. unp. $13.95. Macmillan, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-782881-6) Grades K-3

Beautifully illustrated book of animals and poems spoken from animals' points of view that reflect character, habits, and personalities, all contained in a calendar organization (e.g, turtle in July, bear in March); Singer's poetry captures "the nature of the beast" both in content and in format--the dragonfly's verse zigzags down the page, the timber rattlesnake's coils back and forth, the deer mouse's skitters about; the poetry is fresh and vivid, encouraging young readers and listeners to improvise their own calendar of animals; Jerry Pinkney's full-color depictions are anatomically correct while managing to invest each creature with an elusive mystery or charm special to itself--the December cat, curled on a lovely stuffed chair, looks languidly at readers and confides that "No cat I remember / dislikes December / inside"--inside the warm confines of chairs and laps, of course; a special book with both language arts and picture book appeal

Smith, Lucinda Irwin. WOMEN WHO WRITE: FROM THE PAST AND THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE. 165 p. $14.98. Messner, 1989. (ISBN 0-671-65668-6) Grades 7-12

This book addresses the question of why women write and in the process provides brief biographies of past writers and interviews with contemporary writers that give insight into the circumstances of their lives that have made them writers; begins with a consideration of why people write and a short general history of women and the writing profession; biographies of Jane Austen, George Eliot, Emily Dickinson, Virginia Woolf, Anne Frank, Agatha Christie, and Lorraine Hansberry follow; a diversity of writing genres are represented by the contemporary writers interviewed in the next section of the book: Dawn Garcia, Nikki Giovanni, Jan Goodwin, Beth Henley, Tama Janowitz, Maxine Hong Kingston, Norma Klein (now deceased), Denise Levertov, Nancy Meyers, Joyce Carol Oates, Carolyn See, and Anne Tyler; the last section of the book discusses the decision to become a writer, how to develop one's gift for writing, the process of writing, deciding what to write, and the personality traits that help one

achieve success as a writer (e.g., patience, persistence, and love of language); includes suggestions for further reading and a thorough index; a good resource for those interested in writers' lives and for young people trying to find their way through the fears and uncertainties of committing themselves to writing as a life's work

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk, sel. DANCING TEEPEES: POEMS OF AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH. 32 p. $14.95. Holiday, 1989. (ISBN 0-8234-0724-1) Grades 1-4

Short poems from the oral tradition of American Indians along with a few by contemporary tribal poets; among the images, ideas, and subjects are the physical warmth of newborn life, gratitude for and joy in new life, nature as caretaker and instructor, imaginative vision, survival of the spirit, motherhood, and buffalo; Stephen Gammell's outstanding illustrations--some in pastel pencil, some in watercolor--are thoroughly expressive of each poem's content; many of the illustrations, appropriately enough, are done in a childlike fashion, a trait which adds much to the appeal of the book; an excellent choice for library and classroom use--a chance for children to begin to appreciate the language and images of the American Indian culture and an experience with color, design, and visual expression that links words, emotions, and ideas

Suire, Diane Dow, comp. FAVORITE POEMS: FAMILY. 31 p. $8.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-06263-8) Grades K-1

Sixteen poems and little rhymes about children and their families, illustrated in full-color pastel drawings of boys and girls from various ethnic groups participating in familiar home and family activities; poets include Kate Greenaway, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lee Bennett Hopkins, Aileen Fisher, and Dr. Seuss; scenes of birthday parties, baths, house moving, mealtime, and personal discovery--a twin says a poem about himself and his identical brother, a little girl studies her features in a mirror--are expressions of a common experience among young audiences who also have these childhood concerns; idealized, softly rounded children's faces suggest a younger audience than contents actually address, but such gentle, pleasant depictions can serve to compensate for their absence in reality if handled skillfully by teachers and librarians; excellent title for encouraging sensitivity toward siblings and for airing typical complaints about bedtime, baths, and grownups' advantages, all of which are recognized and dealt with positively without denying little ones' honest feelings

Suire, Diane Dow, comp. FAVORITE POEMS: SEASONS. 32 p. $8.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-06264-6) Grade K-1

Winter, spring, summer, and fall in a collection of 20 rhymes and poems capturing seasonal changes and traditional activities associated with them; poets include Robert Louis Stevenson, Christina Rossetti, Sara Teasdale, Aileen Fisher, Kate Greenaway, Charlotte Zolotow; snow, spring rains, wind, clouds, frost, and falling leaves provide content for big, colorful illustrations which achieve a a finger painted/collage effect in some instances, such as the showy fall scenes of children playing in leaf piles and a jack-o'-lantern grinning on a doorstep; children of various racial descent people the pages, engaging in both active and passive participation in the seasonal parade--building a

snowman, looking at a star, fishing, watching rain against the window pane; big, clear print; excellent read-aloud collection with a good mix of old and modern sounds for young ears learning the shapes and sounds of poetry and song; vivid color with great child-appeal--splashy primary colors--will entrance both small and large groups who will enjoy the sense of restless movement caught by Gwen Connelly's brush

Terban, Marvin. SUPERDUPERS! REALLY FUNNY REAL WORDS. 63 p. $13.95 (ISBN 0-89919-804-X). $4.95 paper (ISBN 0-395-51123-2). Clarion Bks., 1989. Grades 3-6

Defines almost 100 funny words, using each one in a humorous sample sentence and describing the origins or possible origins of each; words are divided into three sections: "rhymes," "almost-rhymes," and "words that double up"; just a few of the words treated are "bigwig," "flimflam," "gobbledygook," "hobo," "hunky-dory," "lickety-split," "pitter-patter," "razzle-dazzle," "so-so," "ticktock," and "zigzag"; also contains a short play that uses the words in the third section of the book; funny, sometimes hilarious, illustrations by Giulio Maestro add even more zest to an already zippy text; includes an alphabetical list of the words in the book and a bibliography; a fun and informative look at some casual words whose origins most people may not have considered before; good for browsing and leisure reading and even for research into word origins

Whipple, Laura, comp. ERIC CARLE'S ANIMALS ANIMALS. unp. $18.95. Philomel Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21744-4) Grades K-3

Carl Sandburg, Ogden Nash, D. H. Lawrence, Emily Dickinson, Eve Merriam, Judith Viorst, Shakespeare, X. J. Kennedy, and Christina Rossetti are some of the poets who bring alive the world of animals in this collection; starring with the poems are Carle's incredible collages made of tissue paper painted over with acrylics; vivid colors and high energy make these collages a true visual feast; an excellent book that must be shared, a joyous blending of the visual and the verbal arts that should pique students' interest in both; includes an alphabetical index of animals and an index of first lines; a first choice for elementary libraries

Whitman, Walt. LEAVES OF GRASS. (Bantam Classics) The 1892 edition. 470 p. $2.95 paper. Bantam. (ISBN 0-553-21116-1) Grades 10-12

Bantam paperback edition of the so-called Deathbed Edition (1892) of the famous Whitman anthology containing revisions and rearrangements and reflecting deletions made by the poet just before his death, with an introduction by the distinguished Whitman scholar and critic, Justin Kaplan; includes all the essential Whitman poetry, although without composition/revision dates; Whitman's essay accompanying his last edition concludes the collection, written, according to the poet, as "I sit gossiping in the early candle-light of old age--I and my book--casting backward glances over our travel'd road"; a valuable addition to high school American literature collections, especially for Kaplan's learned and accessible preface and Whitman's own nostalgic and beautiful epilogue; good print, wide margins, with poems well spaced for reading Whitman's long, often dense passages; a useful source for research by students studying Whitman, free verse, or the strong public reaction to the book's appearance and re-editions during the 19th century, including a discussion of Emerson's involuntary association with subsequent editions to the famous 1855 publication

Yolen, Jane. THE FAERY FLAG: STORIES AND POEMS OF FANTASY AND THE SUPERNATURAL. 120 p. $15.99. Orchard Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-531-08438-8) Grades 4-8

Stories and poetry interweaving ancient myths and modern fantasy in an original telling which reprises legendary characters and motifs in often wry, humorous, and haunting new creations; nine stories and five poems extend the possibilities of fire-breathing dragons, the wolves' side of the Red Riding Hood story, the Three Fates (now sewing on consignment, so to speak), and a unicorn encountered on a present-day school field trip, among others, skillfully immersing old ingredients in sophisticated and compelling contexts; large print, wide margins, and an irresistible narrative voice ensure this title's popularity with myth lovers and budding science fiction fans; an excellent read-aloud selection

Books in a Series

Ball, Jacqueline A. WHAT CAN IT BE? 4 titles each unp. $29.95. each $7.49. Silver Burdett Pr., 1989. Grades K-2
RIDDLES ABOUT BABY ANIMALS. (ISBN 0-671-68576-7)
RIDDLES ABOUT OUR BODIES. (ISBN 0-671-68578-3)
RIDDLES ABOUT THE SEASONS. (ISBN 0-671-68582-1)
RIDDLES ABOUT THE SENSES. (ISBN 0-671-68580-5)

Four colorful books of riddles which teach young children life science lessons through appealing rhymes and photographs; a large-print riddle appears on one page, its answer on the next page, along with a big, full-color photograph and just enough interesting information for little children to grasp; for example, an evergreen tree answers the description "Unlike the others-- / Our birch and beech brothers, / Red oaks and the rest-- / All year long, we stay dressed!"; exceptionally clear, detailed photographs depict every line and contour of a magnified snowflake, a butterfly, a tadpole, and other fascinating subjects; delightful series for introducing elementary science and biology concepts and terminology through question/answer format that encourages group discussion and participation

BOOK (FOR TEACHER USE)

Altmann, Patricia, and Lisa Luciano. READY-TO-USE LITERATURE ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 7-12: WITH TECHNIQUES AND IDEAS FOR USING VIDEO IN THE CLASSROOM. 245 p. $24.95 paper. Ctr. Appl. Res., 1989. (ISBN 0-87628-779-8)

Teacher resource to supplement literature texts; provides activities for ten literary types: adventure, animals and nature, biography, classics, contemporary fiction, drama, historical fiction, mystery, mythology and fables, and science fiction; each chapter contains three types of activities; first are reproducible worksheets (over 130 altogether) useful for focusing or motivation before or after reading a work; next come suggestions for activities such as improvisations, reports, and group work, followed by ideas for long-range projects; a list at the end of each chapter recommends books and films or videos; also includes a skills matrix for locating activities to reinforce specific skills; final chapter defines terminology of cinematography and discusses teaching tips for using films and videos in the classroom; worksheets are not drill and practice exercises but instruments to briefly record

students' impressions in response to literature and would be quite useful as prewriting stimulus for essays or creative writing; appropriate materials for average and below average students whose attention spans require active participation activities; more advanced students may not respond to the worksheets but would benefit from the other activities; a useful tool for summer school repeaters; strong support for adding variety and classroom involvement to the traditional lecture and discussion format of English classes

BOOKS (REFERENCE)

Barnhart, Robert K., ed. THE BARNHART DICTIONARY OF ETYMOLOGY. 1284 p. $59. Wilson, 1988. (ISBN 0-8242-0745-9) Grades 7-12

Contains 30,000 entries produced largely by American scholars under the editorship of Robert K. Barnhart (The World Book Dictionary); entries include part of speech, brief definition, date of first use, language of origin (including American English), and extensive supplementary information when appropriate, such as identification of authors of words (e.g., Chaucer or Shakespeare) or literary works in which words first appeared, the movement of words across languages, scholarly facts or speculation about derivation, and changes in word spelling or meaning; easy-to-read entries appear in boldface with syllabication and pronunciation guides offered only for complex or confusing words and with names of languages and grammatical constructions in the entries spelled out rather than abbreviated; includes the large body of words that came into English from French and German but also sparkles with examples of more recent borrowings from other languages (for instance, "jihad," "hibachi," "kaput," and "khaki") and made-in-America words (such as "hobo," "socialite," "hijack," "panhandle," "pants," "papoose," and "desegregate"); enhanced by notes on development of world languages, a short history of English, glossaries of language names and linguistic terms and of literary works cited, and a bibliography; a feast for language lovers and aspirants to cultural literacy, this dictionary builds vocabulary in language arts, social studies, math, science, and health; offers strong support for reading and writing objectives across the curriculum

GREAT WRITERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. 14 volumes $399.95. Marshall Cavendish, 1989. (ISBN 1-85435-000-5) Grades 9-12; teacher use

VOLUME 1. EARLY ENGLISH WRITERS: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE/ JOHN BUNYAN/SAMUEL PEPYS/HENRY FIELDING

VOLUME 2. NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITISH WRITERS: WILLIAM THACKERAY/ANTHONY TROLLOPE/OSCAR WILDE/SAMUEL BUTLER

VOLUME 3. TWO ENGLISH MASTERS: CHARLES DICKENS/THOMAS HARDY

VOLUME 4. BRITISH WOMEN NOVELISTS: CHARLOTTE BRONTE/ EMILY BRONTE/ELIZABETH GASKELL/GEORGE ELIOT

VOLUME 5. EARLY MODERN NOVELISTS: HENRY JAMES/H.G. WELLS/ W. SOMMERSET MAUGHAM/JOHN GALSWORTHY

VOLUME 6. MODERN NOVELISTS: D.H. LAWRENCE/ROBERT GRAVES/ H.E.BATES/GRAHAM GREENE

VOLUME 7. AMERICAN CLASSICS: MARK TWAIN/F. SCOTT FITZGERALD/ JOHN STEINBECK/ERNEST HEMINGWAY

VOLUME 8. WOMEN WRITERS: JANE AUSTEN/LOUISA MAY ALCOTT/ KATHERINE MANSFIELD/VIRGINIA WOOLF

VOLUME 9. EXOTIC JOURNEYS: CHARLES DARWIN/HERMAN MELVILLE/ JOSEPH CONRAD/ E.M. FORSTER

VOLUME 10. SATIRISTS AND HUMORISTS: JONATHAN SWIFT/LEWIS CARROLL/ EVELYN WAUGH/ALDOUS HUXLEY

VOLUME 11. ADVENTURE WRITERS: DANIEL DEFOE/SIR WALTER SCOTT/ ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON/RUDYARD KIPLING

VOLUME 12. WRITERS OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE: MARY SHELLEY/ EDGAR ALLAN POE/WILKIE COLLINS/SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

VOLUME 13. GREAT POETS: GEOGGREY CHAUCER/WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ROMANTIC POETS: WORDSWORTH/COLERIDGE/BYRON/SHELLEY/KEATS WAR POETS: BROOKE/SASSOON/OWEN/ROSENBERG

VOLUME 14. INDEX: GENERAL INDEX/INDEX OF WRITERS/INDEX OF LITERATURE/GLOSSARY

Literary reference set of unusually in-depth coverage and visual appeal which examines the lives, major works, and times of great English and American writers; each encyclopedia-size volume contains a biography of the writer, fully illustrated, often with portraits and photographs refreshingly unfamiliar to American readers, and includes interesting insets with additional information under such headings as "Key Dates" (in the author's life), "Fact or Fiction" (which speculates on influences in the writer's art, such as Poe's absorption with wan beauties and Melville's real-life source for the great white whale); biographical information is complete, accurate, and made vital by the human-interest angle of its focus, showing writers as they grew up, suffered, yearned, and met their obstacles, often depicting them through selected quotations from their letters, journals, conversations, and recollected impressions of family and friends; a section entitled "Reader's Guide" summarizes the plot or themes of major titles and provides an annotated character list called "Characters in Focus" of one important work which is closely analyzed; many great artworks are reproduced throughout the essays, selected as appropriate interpretations of the characters, scenes, and even the author (as in a painting of an unidentified woman by Carl Holsoe, inserted to suggest Virginia Woolf seated at a writing table); the content of illustrations and particularly the often extensive commentary in their captions greatly enrich this series; sections entitled "The Writer at Work," "Works in Outline," and "Sources and Inspiration" are uniquely helpful in fleshing out the individual writer's process, providing capsuled reviews of selected titles, and

examining people and events that affected the author's concerns and content (such as the Mississippi River on the youthful Mark Twain and the Spanish Civil War on Hemingway), all of which, again, are strengthened considerably through extremely pertinent, fully captioned artwork and photographs; a bibliography and index complete each separate volume; the Index to the entire series contains alphabetical lists of writers and of books, a general index to writers and titles, an authors' index, and a titles' index; an invaluable set for secondary school collections, especially because of the thorough, humanized presentation of the writers and their works in a scholarly but entirely accessible and inviting format of fine writing and superior design; a serious warning to librarians and media personnel is this: these books have been most poorly edited and consequently contain inexcusable errors, such as the misspelling of Lewis Carroll's name on the book cover (but not inside), the disappearance of illustrations into the seams of volumes, dangling modifiers, and all manner of punctuation errors (one assumes that the essayists did not create all these mistakes); given that British printing conventions differ somewhat from American, the profusion of inconsistencies and outright errors obviates that argument to excuse these books' editing troubles; if purchased, these titles require library personnel to alert English teachers to their problems--perhaps teachers could make the editing lapses and oversights a target lesson, thereby turning a flaw to advantage; the beautiful design, superior content, lavish illustrations, and refreshingly British point of view on these major writers serve to assure the set's value if English departments and teachers are forewarned of their grievous editing errors

MACMILLAN DICTIONARY FOR CHILDREN. Rev. ed. 864 p. $14.95. Macmillan, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-761561-8) Grades 3-6

Colorful, updated dictionary for young users in a format which encourages browsing with its mixture of true-color drawings and photographs, insets, attractive cover, sturdy binding, and good, dark print; guide words in bright yellow boxes quickly identify alphabetical range on each page, aided by colored page edges (blue for a-f, red for g-p, green for q-z) dividing dictionary into three large sections; definitions and sentences illustrating words in context precede identification of part of speech, spellings of singular or plural, and variants; etymologies of selected words are inset in bright red-accented boxes appearing on many pages (all states of the union and months of the year receive etymological attention); each new alphabetical section is introduced by five colorful circles showing the letter in five transitions, from its earliest Middle Eastern tribe origin, through Roman modification of the letter, to its current form, all accompanied by descriptive information; pronunciation keys on a bright yellow background appear on the bottom righthand page; homonyms often conclude entries; blue-bordered boxes contain language notes, which infrequently occur (e.g., "emigration" versus "immigration," a brief explanation of contractions); an introductory Sample Page clearly identifies and explains, in order, the function of every component on a typical dictionary page, providing genuine assistance to young readers; humorously illustrated section entitled "The Story of English" traces the language through major influences on it in interesting text; appended reference section lists each American President with his portrait, dates, and Vice President's name and also provides good time lines of events in U.S. history and in world history; flags of the world brighten end pages, along with world maps; tables of weights and measures conclude dictionary; book lies flat when open; a fine reference for young students; only occasional flaws distract (tighter editing might have prevented pronoun/antecedent reference errors in a few entries and vague definitions for some words--e.g., noun forms of "habit" and "extract"), but strengths far outweigh weaknesses in a dictionary with so many attractive features

BOOKS (SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS)

Christ, Henry I. MYTHS AND FOLKLORE. 336 p. $9.70. Amsco Sch., 1989. (ISBN 0-87720-784-4) Grades 6-9

An overview of world myths and folklore accompanied by reading comprehension activities; looks at myths of ancient Greece and Rome, stories of the Trojan War, Norse myths, folktales and ballads, fairy tales and fables, and American folklore; each unit begins with background and explanation, then presents some examples of the genre discussed; other information is interspersed throughout the examples; each unit ends with activities focused on increasing understanding: multiple-choice questions on comprehension (main idea, details, inferences, and outcomes) and understanding words in context, thought and discussion questions, and suggested activities; lists words and phrases associated with a particular type of myth or folklore that have made their way into our language (e.g., "hector" and "siren"); includes an index and pronunciation guide; enjoyable stories that provide a useful basis for practice in reading and understanding; could be used as remedial material with older students; appropriate for individual work or classroom activities

Books (Supplementary Texts) in a Series

GLOBE BLACK BIOGRAPHIES. 236 p. $6.54 paper (ISBN 1-55675-127-3). teacher's manual $1.95 paper (ISBN 1-55675-128-1). Globe, 1989. Grades 7-12

GLOBE HISPANIC BIOGRAPHIES. 232 p. $6.54 paper (ISBN 1-55675-125-7). teacher's manual $1.95 paper (ISBN 1-55675-126-5). Globe, 1989. Grades 7-12

Two collections of sixteen short biographies, each divided into units such as artists, athletes, and entertainers; some of the people profiled are Jorge Luis Borges, Rita Moreno, Cesar Chavez, Nancy Lopez, James Baldwin, Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall, and Arthur Ashe; each biography is constructed the same way, beginning with a photograph and a quotation from, about, or relating to some aspect of the subject's life; the biographical essay is followed by comprehension and thought questions as well as a lesson that demonstrates a strategy for understanding the meaning of a word from its context; each unit of four biographies ends with review and discussion questions about the material covered in the unit and questions about the quotation that accompanies the introduction to the unit; appropriate for reinforcing reading and comprehension skills; can be used by students who are working below, at, or above grade level

BOOKS (WORKBOOKS)

Berbrich, Joan D. FIFTEEN STEPS TO BETTER WRITING. 301 p. $7.75 (ISBN 0-87720-673-2). Unit tests 30 p. $2.75 (ISBN 0-87720-781-X). teacher's manual with answer key $4.25 (ISBN 0-87720-780-1). Amsco Sch., 1988, 1989. Grades 9-12

Writing workbook that takes students from words to whole compositions with interesting, creative activities; the first of the five units focuses on parts of speech and on choosing specific (as opposed to general) words to enliven writing; the second explores sentence structure (e.g., sentence types, compound

and complex sentences, appositives, and parallel structure), and the third is devoted to revision; a fourth unit encompasses numerous writing strategies such as methods of organizing paragraphs and creating effective introductions and conclusions as well as writing directions, advertisements, fillers, thank-you notes, factual reports, letters to the editor, friendly letters, a letter of application, and reviews; also deals with supplying supporting detail to strengthen an argument; contains a bibliography; unit five allows students to synthesize their learning by writing a composition independently; workbook includes an index and is accompanied by a booklet of unit tests; teacher's manual offers guidance for working through a lesson, additional suggestions for activities, and answers; students who find writing a chore may be motivated by the author's enthusiasm and the variety of writing activities; can be used independently, but close teacher supervision will increase the effectiveness of this writing program, especially when used as remediation

Fry, Edward B. READING DRILLS FOR SPEED AND COMPREHENSION: INTRODUCTORY LEVEL. 216 p. $8. Jamestown Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89061-531-4) Grades 4-6

Practice in improving reading rate and comprehension through selected passages followed by comprehension questions, maze (as opposed to cloze) drills, and vocabulary exercises, all designed for self-checking against answer keys provided at end of workbook; also includes graphs for students to chart reading rate, comprehension, maze, and vocabulary progress; 30 reading passages, graded for readability on the Fry Formula, range from medium difficulty to higher and lower difficulty, providing a variety of reading-level experience for students; workbook stresses comprehension first and foremost, suggesting speed, or reading rate, drills for average and above-average readers, not weak readers; passages include fiction and nonfiction from such titles as Tuck Everlasting, The Adventures of the Black Cowboys, Little House in the Big Woods, and Behind the Scenes of a Broadway Musical, all of which stop at an intriguing point to encourage further reading in the books themselves; maze exercises eliminate the only-one-right-answer problem by offering a choice among suggested answers which include the right response without expecting complete recall required by strictly fill-in-the-blank format; as always, Frye's instructions to teachers and students are comprehensive, exact, and given in a larger context than simply the mechanics of the skills themselves; useful adjunct to reading skills, language arts, and a fine preparation for students' eventual encounters with SAT and other uniform tests

Fry, Edward B. SKIMMING AND SCANNING: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL. 2nd ed. 127 p. $8. Jamestown Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89061-246-3) Grades 5-8

Useful workbook drills on reading skills of skimming and scanning, well organized with consistently clear, thorough instructions and explanations; Part 1 defines and teaches skimming skills with exercises correlated to 10 reading excerpts ranging from C. S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe to science, history, and manual skills passages on pond life, dolphins, Hopi Indians, and carpentering; Part 2 defines and teaches scanning skills through exercises using telephone directory pages, indexes, TV listings, bus schedules, sports tables, magazine articles, dictionary pages, and other often consulted sources of general information; emphasizes speed in skimming, showing students where key sentences and paragraphs dependably occur, and stresses comprehension and accuracy in pinpointing only needed data within mass of data in both skimming and scanning sections; excellent teacher guides for all parts; sturdy binding and good print; a problem will be the short-lived nature of some

scanning excerpts--e.g., TV listings, sports statistics, football league champions--but such content is easily updated in the attractive format of the workbook, which can be programmed to newer appeal by teachers as needed; excellent skills and drills for all students, whether academically strong or weak

Goodman, Burton. SUDDEN TWISTS: 18 TALES THAT TAKE A SURPRISING TURN. 128 p. $7.20. Jamestown Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89061-501-2) Grades 6-10

Collection of 18 stories with surprise endings in a high-interest text on a sixth-grade reading level; stories by many famous authors--O. Henry, Shirley Jackson, Saki, Langston Hughes--develop suspenseful narratives, often humorous as well, and deliver a plot-twist at the end, a device which serves to engage readers in the "mystery" as they exert closer attention in efforts to guess the twist; five sets of reading comprehension exercises, consisting of four questions each, follow each selection and test fact recall, vocabulary in context, story elements like plot and setting, and story words (a cloze exercise); "Thinking about the Story" provides inference and thought questions useful for class discussion and writing assignments; sturdy paperback covers have maturely attractive illustration; pen-and-ink drawings appear at intervals on pages with wide margins, good print, and an inviting format overall; answer keys and progress graph conclude text; an above-average high-interest/ low-vocabulary textbook which, beyond its obvious purpose, would also entice good readers with its cover and contents

Gunning, Thomas G. LEARNING TO READ AND THINK: BOOK H. 107 p. $6.50 (ISBN 0-89061-687-6). teacher's guide $2.95 (ISBN 0-89061-688-4). Jamestown Pubs., 1989. Grade 8

One of a series of workbooks designed to introduce and reinforce critical reading skills: distinguishing fact from opinion, identifying and understanding connotations of words, recognizing slanted writing, identifying an author's purpose in writing, choosing logical conclusions, recognizing related and unrelated details, evaluating sources, and identifying propaganda techniques and fallacies in reasoning; workbooks are divided into units (and units into lessons) corresponding to these skills; lessons contain an introduction to the concept followed by various types of short exercises to reinforce learning; review questions appear at the end of each unit; the teacher's guide presents an overview of the series, instructions for using and implementing the program, references, and a scope and sequence chart for the series; also contains individual lesson plans that describe how to introduce and explain the concept, provide answers to exercise questions, give ideas for discussing the exercises, and suggest further related activities; also provided for each unit are an overview, a description of the skill addressed, answers to review questions, suggestions for carrying out the review, and ideas for additional activities; material in the workbook is clearly presented and well organized; appropriate not only for the target grade but also for remedial work in higher grades

Levine, Harold, et al. VOCABULARY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: BOOK A. 183 p. $4.50. Amsco Sch., 1989. (ISBN 0-87720-782-8) Grades 9-12

Vocabulary workbook with forty lessons arranged around such topics as words of pleasure and displeasure, time words, life words, words for feelings and attitudes, and sound words; every fifth lesson is a review of the preceding

four; each lesson begins with a list of vocabulary words with definitions followed by several activities (e.g., fill-in-the-blank sentences, analogies, partially spelled words to be filled in, word building with root words and prefixes or suffixes, choosing antonyms or synonyms, reducing the number of words in a given sentence, finding the meaning of a word from its context, and reading a passage and answering questions about it); includes a dictionary of words taught in the book and a pronunciation key; activities are sufficiently interesting to keep students working and provide enough challenge to keep them engaged; useful for most all learners

Pierson, Dana R. FABLES, POEMS, AND MYTHS. 62 p. with teacher's guide sheet and answer key $3.95. Ed. Design Inc., 1989. (ISBN 0-87694-336-9) Grades 6-9

A workbook designed both to familiarize students with the genres mentioned in the title and to strengthen reading comprehension skills; format of the workbook suggests a younger audience, but content and vocabulary make it appropriate for use by capable students who have a problem or dysfunction in the area of reading skills; each page contains a fable, poem, or myth followed by several questions that check comprehension and ability to make inferences; suitable for individual or group work; a teacher's guide sheet explains the purpose of the workbook, describes supplementary activities, and provides an answer key

Spargo, Edward. TIMED READINGS: BOOK SIX. 3rd ed. 120 p. $5.25. Jamestown Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89061-508-X) Reading level 9

One of a series of 10 titles, Book Six at ninth grade level contains 50 reading selections, followed by comprehension questions, aimed at helping students increase their reading rate for factual material; each selection is 400 words long to facilitate timing by teacher or by student using cassette, which is also available; pacing dots appear at 100-word intervals in righthand margin of each timed reading drill to help students regulate their reading pace; each passage focuses on a scientific, biographical, historical, or timely issue in substantial content packed with interestingly presented details; educational and entertaining selections which almost qualify for a high-level "Trivial Pursuits" crash course while helping students increase both speed and comprehension skills; thorough instructions for students precede selections; answer key, progress graph, and pacing graph enable students to chart their own performances; excellent practice for increasingly test-oriented school curricula and college admissions policies as well as reading improvement per se

Books (Workbooks) in a Series

Barnes, Donald L., and Arlene Burgdorf. THINKING SKILLS IN THE LANGUAGE ARTS. 2 workbooks each 79 p. each $6.25. each teacher's guide and answer key free. Ed. Design Inc., 1990.
BOOK 1. (ISBN 0-87694-331-8) Grades 7-9
BOOK 2. (ISBN 0-87694-332-6) Grades 9-12

Two-book series in workbook format centering on vocabulary and logic skills through short, varied exercises timed for about 10 minutes each; Book 1, appropriate for Grades 7-9, tests vocabulary and thinking in 60+ drills drawing on comprehension of synonyms and antonyms, definitions, analogies, order and sequence, comparison/contrast, cause and effect, classification and grouping,

logical reasoning, and sentence logic, all presented in richly varied formats that are bonuses in themselves for teachers seeking new ways to present and test these language arts concepts; Book 2's design, like Book 1's, is never mechanical and repetitive, changing frequently to prevent "testing mind-set," a pitfall avoided by this series' most valuable feature; Book 2 adds exercises in figurative language, contextual meanings, making inferences, and drills in fact-opinion-probability, expanding the level of difficulty; series is definitely an adjunct to prior teaching of all these concepts as it does not attempt to show students grammatical fine points (e.g., why a semicolon, not a comma, precedes a conjunctive adverb linking complete sentences); useful to reinforce and test concepts presented and studied in class; an especially creative workbook model

GLOBE READING COMPREHENSION PROGRAM. 2 titles each 155 p. each $5.94. each teacher's annotated guide $5.95. Globe, 1989. Grades 6-12
BEGINNINGS (ISBN 1-55675-006-4). guide (ISBN 1-55675-007-2).
HORIZONS (ISBN 1-55675-008-0). guide (ISBN 1-55675-009-9).

High-interest/low-vocabulary workbooks designed to promote reading comprehension skills through short selections followed by interpretive and short-answer questions; Beginnings, written at third-grade reading level, and Horizons, written at fourth-grade reading level, are two titles in a five-book series which focuses on a wide variety of topics, including science, women, blacks, myths, and history, in short passages of specific, concrete content; each of 36 four-page, self-contained lessons presents a reading passage followed by three pages of questions and exercises; all selections are appealing, ranging from biography sketches on stars like N.C. State's Spud Webb and his basketball achievements despite his 5'7'' height, to Althea Gibson's overcoming personality negatives to win Wimbledon, to a scientific look at why flowers have color, among other topics; motivational reading aims at encouraging fortitude to overcome a personal handicap; annotated Teacher's Editions provide excellent background material on each reading selection, especially by suggesting specific questions to raise with students before they read; exercises center on inferential thinking, direct recall, critical thinking, memory aids, and varied ways of responding creatively to the readings; illustrated with black-and-white photographs and drawings; a truly high-interest anthology which could work at many different grade levels

Levine, Harold, et al. VOCABULARY FOR ENJOYMENT. 3 workbooks, answer keys (each $1.60) Amsco Sch. Grades 4-8
BOOK ONE. 170 p. $5. 1986. (ISBN 0-87720-662-7)
BOOK TWO. 224 p. $6.20. 1987. (ISBN 0-87720-663-5)
BOOK THREE. 280 p. $6.80. 1988. (ISBN 0-87720-670-8)

Vocabulary workbooks with lessons that focus on a single topic such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and words with particular prefixes or suffixes; the lessons in each book follow a similar format with some variation in activities; typically lessons begin with a list of vocabulary words that students are asked to pronounce and then write out; an exercise to help students figure out the definitions of the words precedes a list of the words with definitions and example sentences; serveral activities follow in which students do such exercises as choose one of two words or phrases to fill a blank in a sentence, read information and then answer questions about the passage that use the vocabulary words, use vocabulary words to replace words and phrases in sentences, and make different words by adding prefixes and suffixes; books two

and three expand the activities to include prewriting exercises, short compositions, analogies, defining word relationships, and learning idioms; all of the books make every third lesson a review and contain a dictionary of words studied and a pronunciation key; books two and three also include an index; book two contains review lessons for book one, and book three begins with review lessons for book two; although each book after the first builds on the one preceding it, the books can be used separately; an answer key is available for each workbook; appropriate for all students but may also be used for remediation or enrichment

Spargo, Edward, ed. TIMED READINGS IN LITERATURE. each 120 p. each $5.25. Jamestown Pubs., 1989.
BOOK TWO. (ISBN 0-89061-515-2) READING LEVEL 5
BOOK TEN. (ISBN 0-89061-523-3) READING LEVEL COLLEGE

Two titles from a series of ten graded workbooks designed to help students increase their reading rate while maintaining and even improving their comprehension; Book Two, at fifth grade level, and Book Ten, at college level (or advanced senior high school level), contain 50 literary selections of 400-word passages, each selection followed by 10 questions on fact recall and comprehension; excellent selections represent classic fiction and nonfiction, ranging from Poe, Alcott, Dickens, Dostoyevski, and the Brothers Grimm to Thoreau, Jefferson, Boswell, and Frederick Douglass, among others; designed as pacing drills, each passage is marked with pacing dots placed at 100-word intervals in the righthand margin to help students regulate their reading rate; an answer key, progress graph, and pacing graph permit students to monitor their own progress; excellent instructions explain all elements of the exercise and make the distinction between recreational reading (for pleasure) and acquisitional reading (for facts), emphasizing that skills overlap and reinforce each other; good print and binding; a teacher-administered program or, if desired, an individually monitored drill (a cassette is available for the latter); excellent for aiding students in reading skills and preparing them for similar testing with more critical results, such as the PSAT and the SAT

FILMSTRIPS (SOUND)

Filmstrips (Sound) in a Series

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS. 4 color filmstrips, 4 cassette tapes, catalog card kit, skill sheets, guide $165. each $37. SVE, 1988.
Grades 6-9
Titles: JAZZ DAWNS IN AMERICA
JAZZ SOUNDS IN AMERICA
A LITERARY RENAISSANCE
A VISION OF BEAUTY

Sound filmstrips incorporating archival black-and-white illustrations and photographs, reproductions of paintings, jazz samples from original recordings, and excerpts of poetry and other writing by black Americans; "Jazz Dawns in America" explores the history of jazz, including the importance of music in African societies and in the lives of African American slaves (e.g., work songs and spirituals); discusses the development of ragtime, country blues, and classic blues and how they contributed to the formation of jazz; also mentions

some of the musical elements of jazz (e.g., call and response and improvisation) and important artists such as W. C. Handy, Bessie Smith, Scott Joplin, and Eubie Blake; "Jazz Sounds in America" looks at different jazz styles such as Dixieland, New Orleans, bebop, swing, and cool as well as contemporary jazz; comments on artists such as Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, and Wynton Marsalis among many others; "A Literary Renaissance" discusses some important black American writers (e.g., Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker), and "A Vision of Beauty" looks at black American art and artists and African influence on them; all of the filmstrips present their material in a context of historical and social influences and pay particular attention to the Harlem Renaissance; the package includes twenty-four worksheets that contain numerous activities to increase students' knowledge of jazz (e.g., instruments, musical terms, and musical characteristics), black American literature (including analyzing poetry and writing a speech), and black American art (including activities with photography and collage); for each filmstrip the guide provides learning objectives, a vocabulary list, a program summary, activities for before and after viewing the filmstrip, a list of artists not mentioned in the filmstrip, and a script; the content of these programs will be new and exciting to many students and will give them a better sense of the importance African and black American culture holds for all Americans; the worksheets provide excellent opportunities for more learning, discussion, and exploration

KITS

PERFORM! DEVELOPING THE NATURAL LANGUAGE OF EVERY CHILD: GRADE FIVE. 25 copies of Whole Class Book, 5 copies each of 5 titles of Theater Workshop Playbooks, 1 audio cassette (plays in Whole Class Book), 2 posters, teaching guide $99.95. Scholastic Inc., 1990. (ISBN 0-590-65375-X) Grade 5

A package that offers children the opportunity to perform, produce, and direct plays as a means of improving language arts skills; includes twenty-five copies of a booklet containing three plays intended for study and use by the whole class (with one by Rod Serling); the accompanying audio cassette presents performances of these three plays; five copies each of five other play booklets (each containing either two or three plays) allow for small group work in presenting a play; each booklet centers around a theme: relationships, mystery and suspense, courage, fantasy, or family; the teacher's guide explains the educational objectives and the rationale for using drama in the classroom and provides an overview of the materials in the package, suggestions for using the package with students who have limited English proficiency, directions for producing plays in the classroom, the process for using the whole class books, directions for working with the theater workshop books, a general lesson plan, strategies for reading a play, suggestions for cooperative reading, related activities, an explanation of teaching writing as a process in conjunction with reading plays, creative drama techniques, various methods of assessing the content and the performance of the plays, a bibliography, and specific lesson plans for all the plays; unfortunately, the teacher's guide contains a number of grammatical errors and editing mistakes; most of the plays are of interest and all of a manageable length; this is a good resource for teachers wishing to make drama an integral part of their language arts programs, and the detailed teacher's guide will help make the process a painless one

Kits in a Series

BRIDGES: MOVING FROM THE BASAL INTO LITERATURE. 6 kits each $240. Scholastic Inc., 1988. Grades K-6

GRADES K-1 KIT: Whole class book (30 copies of 1 title), small group books (10 copies each of 3 titles, 3 read-along cassettes), read aloud books (1 copy each of 20 titles), 31 response logs (blank), 35 bookmarks, lesson plan books (1 whole class, 3 small group), writing card game, posters, teacher's resource book

GRADE 2 KIT: Whole class book (35 copies of 1 title, 1 read-along cassette); small group books (10 copies each of 3 titles, 2 read-along cassettes), buddy books (2 copies each of 5 titles), 36 response logs (formated), 35 bookmarks, lesson plan books (1 whole class, 3 small group), reproducible worksheets, activity cards, writing card game, posters, teacher's resource book

GRADES 3-6 KITS: Whole class book (35 copies of 1 title), small group books (10 copies each of 3 titles), buddy books (2 copies each of 10 titles), 36 response logs (formatted), 35 bookmarks, lesson plan books (1 whole class, 3 small group), reproducible worksheets, activity cards, writing card game, posters, teacher's resource book

A set of materials to provide children reading experiences with whole books to facilitate the learning of good language skills and the love of reading; the teacher's resource book for each grade describes the purpose and rationale of the program and also contains a scope and sequence chart, an overview of program components, and an introduction to the materials, steps, management system, and lesson plans for various grade levels; it also includes sections on individual reading conferences, discussing themes of the literature, strategies and methods used in the lesson plans, theory and guidelines for using the activity cards, introducing the worksheets, across-the-curriculum components of the program, using the response log and writing, and evaluation of work; also includes questions and answers about the program, a bibliography, and a list of books used in the program for each grade level; lesson plan booklets contain information about the author of a particular book and an overview chart of skills, strategies, and literary concepts; individual lesson plans provide a synopsis of the book, prereading activities, instructions for discussing literary concepts, comprehension questions, and a topic for the response log; booklet also includes a list of extension activities and across-the-curriculum information and activities; many of the interesting, informative books included in the packages are award winners (e.g., Caldecott and Newbery); this kit can be a supplement to the basal or a reading program in itself

STUDY PRINTS

ALL AROUND THE YEAR: NATURE POEMS. 6 study prints 18" x 13" $19.95. SVE, 1988. Grades 4-8

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA: POEMS. 6 study prints 18" x 13" $19.95. SVE, 1988. Grades 4-8

SHOW AND TELL: WRITE YOUR OWN POEMS AND STORIES. 6 study prints 18" x 13" $19.95. SVE, 1988. Grades 4-8

Three sets of six photo-posters with lessons and activities on poetry basics printed on the back of each poster; posters are full-color, inviting scenes of a New England village, a snowfall, an autumn-red roadside, a trio of colorful macaws, and other poetically picturesque sights and activities; the back of each poster contains three or four poems by noted poets (Rossetti, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Louis Stevenson, Vachel Lindsay, others) whose verse is especially suited to the photograph, being sensory and musical and rich in imagery; directions define a specific category of poem or poetic device, such as haiku, shaped poems, limericks, acrostics, couplets, onomatopoeia, and metaphor, and provide space for students to respond to simple activities suggested as expansions of the mini-lesson illustrated; the model poems are exceptionally well chosen, introducing students to some of our finest verse in small, lyrical doses; one problem for teachers is the failure in the SHOW AND TELL series to explain rhythm/stress and syllabication for the couplet or the limerick--students drawn to these two forms may not grasp the idea of a set beat, a set number of syllables, as basic components which make the couplet or limerick work for the listener's ear; a nice program for acquainting students with basic poetry skills, which will be most useful to beginning teachers in need of methods

VIDEOCASSETTES

CRITICAL THINKING: HOW TO EVALUATE INFORMATION AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS. 1 live-action videocassette 50 min. guide VHS $219. Ctr. Humanities, 1988. (Available from Guidance Assocs.) Grades 9-12

Four-part live-action video encourages students to make rational decisions based on sound, logical thinking; first part of the program explains how we use words to express our perceptions of reality and how elusive meanings of words can be; stresses importance of finding out what people really mean by the words and phrases they use; second part of the program explores the differences between opinion, persuasion, and fact; explains personal bias, persuasion, and self-interest as they relate to the communication of information and describes rational, valid, and qualified opinions; part three defines various types of faulty reasoning, such as hasty generalizations, inconsistent arguments, irrelevant arguments, and false analogies; also discusses the pitfalls of succumbing to propaganda, celebrity endorsements, and advertising techniques such as card stacking; last part demonstrates how to make rational judgments based on facts; also includes a review of major points; package contains a quick reference guide that provides program objectives and a summary of content; program guide gives objectives, summary of content, related activities for each segment of the program, four reproducible worksheets, answer key for

the worksheets, glossary, and bibliography; informative program with a manageable scope that presents material especially important in this age of information and communication; appropriate resource for helping students distinguish between fact and opinion, emotion and logic, and rational and faulty reasoning

SCIENCE FICTION: JULES VERNE TO RAY BRADBURY . . . AND BEYOND. 2 live-action videocassettes 30 min. guide VHS $249. Ctr. Humanities, 1990. (Available from Guidance Assocs.) Grades 9-12

These narrated videos feature clips from movies based on science fiction works and track the progression of science fiction by describing the work of Lucian, Sir Thomas More, Jonathan Swift, Mary Shelley, Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Aldous Huxley, George Orwell, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, and Frank Herbert; also touch on comic book, television, and movie characters such as Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, Superman, Batman, Luke Skywalker, and Han Solo; specific works mentioned include Gulliver's Travels, Frankenstein, Brave New World, 1984, Martian Chronicles, and 2001: A Space Odyssey; the guide booklet contains a summary of contents for both videocassettes, discussion questions and suggested activities (both of which encourage further reading), a list of suggested books, a list of science fiction writers, and a list of videos used in the programs; these videocassettes are an appropriate introduction or overview of the genre, and the activities suggested in the guide will provide opportunities for studies and discussions of greater depth

SHAKESPEARE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE MODERN WORLD. 2 live-action videocassettes 45 min. guide VHS $249. Ctr. Humanities, 1990. (Available from Guidance Assocs.) Grades 9-12

Three-part program which seeks to demonstrate the universality of Shakespearean drama's timeless appeal through comparisons with modern works, using Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Wuthering Heights, West Side Story, Lord of the Flies, The Outsiders, and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; narrated by Conrad Geller, a high school Shakespeare teacher, whose helpful analysis is interspersed with pertinent clips from famous film versions of the works in an easy, Alistair Cooke-style, armchair manner which student audiences will enjoy; Geller examines the topics of love, alienation, revenge, ambition, violence, evil, and power in the plays of Shakespeare and then turns to modern works which probe the same topics; for example, themes of alienation from family and society in Hamlet are related to those in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, along with the grim, ironic humor in Hamlet's dialogue with his adversaries and in Randall McMurphy's exchanges with his antagonist, Nurse Ratched; likewise, topics of evil and violence in Macbeth are paralleled with those in Lord of the Flies and Poe's "The Black Cat"; the star-crossed lovers, the feuding families, and the revenge on both houses in Romeo and Juliet are related to the gang fights and loyalties in The Outsiders and the tragic love of Heathcliff and Katherine in Wuthering Heights; classic film productions--Zeffirelli's production of Romeo and Juliet, Lawrence Olivier's Hamlet, John Gielgud as Caesar, Orson Welles as Macbeth--provide memorable scenes illustrating the discussion; segments are short ("paragraphed," so to speak), lending themselves to classroom concentration on specific issues and episodes at a time so that, though divided into three parts, the content is interrelated throughout without significant closures; Geller's interpretations are subject to intelligent disagreement (he tends to oversimplify Shakespeare's views of love and

ambition, for instance, and refers to these topics as "themes"), but the substance of his discussion is an excellent stimulus for class discussion and debate; teacher's guide is just the script, plus a few review questions--really not much help; a most useful addition to drama and Shakespeare collections if teachers preview contents first, making sure that intended audiences are acquainted with all titles, either by teaching them, reviewing them, having individuals present them to the class, or by individual reading

WRITING AS PROCESS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE. 1 live-action videocassette 45 min. guide VHS $219. Ctr. Humanities, 1987. (Available from Guidance Assocs.) Grades 9-12

Live-action video in four parts presents the writing process in three steps: prewriting, composing a draft, and revising and polishing; program is intended to help students who find writing a frightening task and divides the material into easy-to-follow segments; covers the benefits of free writing and journal writing in gaining comfort with and fluency in writing; stresses the importance of identifying scope, audience, and purpose of a composition; suggests ways to gather information and ideas (e.g., the library, personal experience, and interviews) and methods of developing a plan for presenting one's material (e.g., looking for patterns and connections among ideas, making an idea map or storyboard, or writing a formal outline); provides suggestions for getting through the first draft and explains various facets of the revision process (e.g., checking for logical order and clearly expressed content, copyediting, reviewing style and tone of language, creating a final version in correct manuscript form, and proofreading); final segment reviews major points of the program; package includes a quick reference guide with program objectives and summary of content and a program guide containing program objectives, summary of content, suggestions for related activities, and list of suggested reading; clear and coherent discussion that is an appropriate introduction or review of the writing process as well as encouragement for those paralyzed by the very idea of having to write

Videocassette in a Series

ADVENTURESOME MAX: DISCOVERING THE WORLD and MAX IN MOTION: DEVELOPING LANGUAGE SKILLS. 2 videocassettes 18 min. 48 skill sheets guides VHS $129. each VHS $79. SVE, 1989. Grades K-2

Video programs intended to provide experiences for developing language and communication skills; each program has eight animated, wordless stories about Max the Mouse; in each story Max has some problem or challenge to solve, and he generally does so in an amusing way, muttering unintelligibly to himself all the while; the teacher's manual accompanying each videocassette provides an introduction to the series (including a summary, series objectives, suggested order of presentation, and a description of the resource material), suggestions for using the programs in a whole language context and with ESL learners, a bibliography of children's literature, and lesson plans for each story that include discussion questions and extended activities; manuals also include twenty-four reproducible skills sheets with directions and/or answer keys on the reverse side; children's attention spans will not be taxed by the brief story segments, and teachers will find the skills sheets useful as a supplement to language arts instruction

STUDY SKILLS II. 3 live-action videocassettes guides VHS $209. each VHS $79. Guidance Assocs., 1989. Grades 9-12
HOW TO READ A TEXTBOOK. 18 min.
HOW TO TAKE NOTES. 16 min.
HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY. 20 min.

Live-action videos that guide students to effective, efficient ways to read a textbook, take notes, and use the library; in "How to Read a Textbook," one student explains to another a five-step process for reading: survey, question, read, recite, and review; in "How to Take Notes," a school's newspaper editor shows one of his reporters a logical, helpful way to take notes and communicates why taking notes is important; "How to Use the Library" features one student helping another as well as a tour of a library by a professional school librarian; each program is presented in the context of a believable scenario that will help hold students' interest; important points are summarized on the screen at the end of each program; the guide booklet with each program contains a summary of the program, a test on the program, answers to the test, related activities, and a list of suggested reading; the excellent advice offered in these programs is clearly presented; useful as a review for all students or as special help for those whose weak study skills cause problems with academic progress

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